

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 27, 2020

MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA PHONE AND ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ATTENDEES: Scott Turczynski, Kyle Roed, Amy Dutton, Daryn Richardson, Sarah Martinez, Brian Warner, Kirsten Lane, Johnna Davis, Mari Reynolds, Nicole Cleveland

IVRS Support Staff: Vienna Hoang, Victoria Carrington, Steve Faulkner, Lori

Buske, David Mitchell, Jeff Haight, Brandy McOmer, Kelley Rice, Richard Clark, Michelle Krefft

ABSENT:

Lisa Schneider, Pam Fitzsimmons, Demarcus Thomas, James Luttrell, Rich Phelan

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scott Turczynski called the October 27th, 2020 State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meeting to order at 10:31a. New SRC Member Johnna Davis was introduced and provided information about herself.

QUORUM

Chair Turczynski declared the absence of a quorum noting that no motions or voting will occur. Only 9 of 14 voting members present. the agenda, Sarah Martinez seconded. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

FINANICIAL OVERVIEW

Resource Manager Jeff Haight provided an overview of the data/charts provided in the agenda handouts.

Jeff provided an explanation of: **What is the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) levels that we need to be watching?**

MOE: to maintain non-federal funding for activities described in their application at a level which is not less than expenditures (State funding/match dollars from contracts) for such activities during the fiscal year prior to receiving the grant or cooperative agreement from 2 years' prior. The underlying principle is to ensure that federal grantees are committed to maintaining the same level of services already being provided after receipt of the federal grant award. The MOE provision is most heavily scrutinized for grant programs requiring cost sharing, which is also known as "matching".

The FFY2020 Successful Closures is 389 less than this time last year and FFY2020 unsuccessful closures is 324 less than this time last year.

The waiting list on September 30, 2020 contained 0 SD and 176 OE for a total of 176; this is 5 less than July 31, 2020, and 28 more than a year ago, September 30, 2019.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

David provided information to the SRC on IVRS Budget Request for 2022-2023. IVRS is requesting \$50,000 in state monies that would match federal dollars. These dollars would be

allocated to sustain our mobile technology effort. There are staff who are still utilizing desktops, by updating these systems we will have more flexibility in terms of teleworking and mobile services. We also plan to request an additional \$250,000 that will also be able to match federal monies and these dollars will be used to expand efforts to positively impact Department of Correction outcomes with our juveniles with disabilities that are being served. Monies would be used for VR to expand contract services with the Juvenile Reentry System, IVRS is already involved in the statewide service planning with system partners, but there is a gap in collaboration and facilitation with families and community resources when it comes time for the juvenile to exit the system and reenter the community. Our services will be utilized to support a minimum of three contract positions with the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning to reduce recidivism and promote employment outcomes/independence through existing community resources. The matching dollars allows us to sustain the program. This request also will include a request to expand one FTE position that is used for contract monitoring and accountability for IVRS.

There are still additional federal dollars available -approximately requiring an additional \$300,000 in state match. We are not requesting appropriations for those dollars, but intend to expand our contract efforts with the secondary school system to develop third party cash match programs expanding our current Transition Alliance Programs which is a 50-50 partnership between IVRS and the secondary school district. Because of the pandemic, we have not made progress with the schools and anticipate this most likely won't occur until the fall of 2021 at the earliest. We currently have 16 programs and are trying to expand those efforts. We, however, are at capacity with our ability to monitor and report state/federal compliance with existing staff, thus the request for the additional FTE to help manage this. This is all planned in the expansion of the cash match programs and we are responsible for contract oversight and monitoring as well as directing service priorities consistent with federal regulations.

These employment efforts are integrated into Future Ready Iowa strategies and result in a positive return on investment for Iowans. The additional \$300,000 request in state monies results in \$1.1 million in federal dollars and will serve Iowans with disabilities across our core partner programs.

David reminded the committee that last year we asked for 3 additional FTE positions at no additional budget cost (meaning we would sustain in our status quo budget), we are making this same request again this year. These 3 positions are to work with individuals who are Deaf in the State of Iowa.

David mentioned that the legislative reception will not be held in person due to COVID-19 and suggest we create a series of weekly newsletters in January/February, partnering with the Iowa DD Council. The DD Council is sharing \$50,000 to help with the Employment 1st Project.

Amy Dutton asked further questions on the 3 FTE positions that were previously requested and why we didn't receive these. David responded that efforts across the state have been to reduce the number of FTE's in State government.

The following video was played to highlight NDEAM:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBHUXc5vNwc&feature=youtu.be>

Michelle Krefft – IVRS Business Services Resource Manager shared information on the NDEAM Virtual Event being held on 10/28/2020.

Mari Reynolds asked a question on whether there was a program or a different way of providing services to this specific population of juvenile residents or will it be a standard VR Process. David shared there is a current statewide taskforce that is addressing how to improve services and outcomes. One of the gaps that has been identified is youth get lost after they exit the programs. They tried to hire mentor positions in the past and they were not successful, so we would be to trying to hire coordinator positions that would focus on how to connect students to community resources in their local communities to do the long term follow-up.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach – Mari Reynolds – The Committee determined that they need a couple of extra workgroups to accomplish their goals in the committee. Need to meet to discuss virtual legislative reception, State Plan and Consumer Satisfaction Survey. Dave voiced that IVRS staff would do the heavy lifting on the agenda topics for the legislative reception as well as the state plan, but need guidance and affirmation on the direction the agency is moving in from the committee.

VR Service Delivery – Sarah Martinez, Committee Chair – Reviewed where things are at with the upcoming needs assessment and state plan. Brandy and Richard discussed meeting with ICIE, and updating the contract to focus on the needs assessment areas to get better data to help with the planning process. Discussed the policies that Brandy has been working on.

CAP REPORT

Lisa Schneider not present.

SILC REPORT

Sarah Martinez shared that they recently finished the State Plan for IL which has the goals that the SIL's and State Partners are going to work on. Only 7 SIL's were accepted by the federal office, currently in the process of making changes to the State Plan for acceptance. The SILC paid for voting members to attend the APRIL conference (Association for Programs Rural Independent Living). Sarah was on the keynote panel talking about building the future generation of independent living. SILC signed a letter of support to take part in 'Track for Healthcare' a grant program through the University Center for Excellence in Developmental disabilities. U of I was one of 10 universities accepted by the administration for Community Living for this grant – one year planning grant to establish community based transition pilots for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities from pediatric to adult healthcare providers. A grant was recently submitted to the Iowa Dept on Aging through all the AAA's in Iowa – ADRC Grant that will create training opportunities for the ADRC's -- increase technology access through Easter Seals – lending library model, will also strengthen the lifelong links website (making access to resources easier online).

Sarah shared their agency is celebrating NDEAM by announcing they have hired their first dedicated employment specialist.

RSB UPDATE

Steve shared an update on the Iowa Self Employment Program and our recent nationwide recognition. Recently we were able to share with RSA many aspects of our services and RespectAbility - nationwide non-profit organization that advocates for individuals with disabilities, they have connections with Governors, media, Federal Government, Public VR and

many employers. We were invited to present to over 100 people from 6-10 different states and different organizations with an interest in employment for persons with disabilities. Iowa is known for being a leader in Self-Employment Initiatives, our team discussed Customized Self-Employment (supportive self-employment). Shared how the self-employment program works in Iowa, how we have mentors (business development specialists) and field offices. We have around 200 active self-employment cases in Iowa – this is a record.

RSB POLICY UPDATE

Brandy McOmber shared that we have 4 policies to review, we are almost finished with reviewing all the policies. This will allow for the IMPACT Meetings to focus on providing training on a variety of policies and provide more insight to team members.

Policies reviewed include; Competitive Integrated Employment, Hearing and Appeals, Client Assistance Program and Job Candidate Emergency Procedures

Follow up with Brandy by November 10th if you have additional comments on these policies.

BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATES

Michelle Krefftt provided an update to the council on how IVRS has been providing business services virtually.

Virtual Job Clubs – 6 of these are taking place each month; 4 hosted out of Cedar Rapids Office and 2 out of Des Moines Office. These events are bringing our business partners and Job Candidates together. Businesses that have participated include; Amazon, UPS, CVS, Sodexo, Mediacom. We have also had informational sessions on topics such as; How do I become a Referee?, How do I become a Realtor?

Customer Service Academy (CSA) – This was driven by our business partners who asked for opportunities for our Job Candidates to obtain general customer service skills. We held our first CSA in October and had 42 JC's participate for the full week. These individuals received a certificate for their completion. We had 60 additional JC's who attended a portion of the academy. The curriculum was presented over 5 days, 2 hours each day.

Disability Sensitivity Training – We have been providing this to our Business Partners, the training is called 'Windmills'. The training has been provided to EMC, MidAmerican and presented at the Greater Des Moines Partnership Disability Awareness Month Virtual Event to over 100 business in the Des Moines Area.

CSNA BREAKOUT ROOMS

Brandy shared that we will be dividing the group into 2 groups similar to our last SRC Meeting. The purpose of the breakout rooms is to have conversations to check in with the council members to focus on our needs assessment.

Brandy shared that their group focused on the area of youth and students, Pre-ETS.

Steve shared their group talked about the MSD population and why they are not participating in CRP services, members shared that people are significantly impacted by COVID currently.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.

The next SRC meeting is Tuesday, January 26, 2021, the meeting will be held virtually via ZOOM from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., with committee meetings beginning at 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Meeting minutes approved by the Council on this date: _____

SRC Chair – Scott Turczynski _____